

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. Nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide variant of a polypeptide of interest which polypeptide of interest is cleared from the kidney and does not contain a Fc region of an IgG, which variant comprises a salvage receptor binding epitope of an Fc region of an IgG, and which variant has a longer *in vivo* half-life than the polypeptide of interest.
  2. The nucleic acid of claim 1 wherein the polypeptide of interest contains an Ig domain or Ig-like domain that is not a CH2 domain.
  3. The nucleic acid of claim 2 wherein the epitope is contained within the Ig domain or Ig-like domain.
  4. The nucleic acid of claim 3 wherein the Ig domain or Ig-like domain comprises a CH1 domain.
  5. The nucleic acid of claim 3 wherein the epitope is taken from one or two loops of the Fc region and transferred to the Ig domain or Ig-like domain.
  6. The nucleic acid of claim 5 wherein the epitope is taken from the CH2 domain of the Fc region and transferred to the CH1, CH3, or V<sub>H</sub> region, or more than one such region, of an Ig or to a Ig-like domain.
  7. The nucleic acid of claim 5 wherein the epitope is taken from the CH2 domain of the Fc region and transferred to the C<sub>L</sub> region or V<sub>L</sub> region, or both, of an Ig or to an Ig-like domain.
  8. The nucleic acid of claim 3 wherein the polypeptide of interest is a Fab, a (Fab')<sub>2</sub>, a diabody, a Fv fragment, a single-chain Fv fragment, or a receptor.
  9. The nucleic acid of claim 8 wherein the polypeptide of interest is an LFA-1 antagonist.
  10. The nucleic acid of claim 9 wherein the polypeptide of interest is a Fab or (Fab')<sub>2</sub> of an anti-LFA-1 antibody.

11. The nucleic acid of claim 10 wherein the polypeptide of interest is an anti-CD18 Fab or anti-CD18 (Fab')<sub>2</sub>.
12. The nucleic acid of claim 11 wherein the polypeptide of interest is human or humanized.
13. The nucleic acid of claim 1 wherein the epitope comprises the sequences: HQNLSDGK (SEQ ID NO: 1), HQNISDGK (SEQ ID NO: 2), HQSLGTQ (SEQ ID NO: 11), or VISSHLGQ (SEQ ID NO: 31) and PKNSSMISNTP (SEQ ID NO: 3).
14. The nucleic acid of claim 13 wherein the epitope is fused to the polypeptide of interest.
15. The nucleic acid of claim 14 wherein the polypeptide of interest is growth hormone or nerve growth factor.
16. A replicable vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1.
17. A host cell comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1.
18. A host cell that is transformed with the nucleic acid of claim 1.
19. A method for producing a polypeptide variant comprising culturing the host cells of claim 1 in a culture medium and recovering the variant from the host cell culture.
20. The method of claim 19 wherein the variant is recovered from the host cell culture medium.

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